/13/This lack of certainty concerning the origins of the Mossi should not prevent us from treating the anthropological question of the Mossi. On the contrary, for it is quite evident that, while linguistics can give us valuable information about the origins and affinities of the Mossi, anthropology can give us even more valuable and far-reaching information since, as we know, it is obviously easier for a people to change its language than the form of its skull. Let us, therefore, look to anthropology and consult Dr. Ruelle to find out what the Mossi are from a somatic viewpoint.

Dr. Ruelle, in the work cited below (1), has worked with 100

1. L'Anthropologie, Vol. XV (1904), pp. 519-561 and 657-703.

Mossi men (unfortunately, he did not measure women, which is a regrettable shortcoming and can invalidate certain averages, for instance, the ones concerning stature). From the viewpoint of skin color, which he generally finds dark brown (not only for the Mossi but for the other tribes of the IInd military territory which he studied at the same time as the Mossi), he gives for the Mossi the following numbers on Broca's chromatic scale:

70 Mossi out of 100 have no. 42
14 Mossi out of 100 have no. 41
19 Mossi out of 100 have no. 37 (2)

2. Page 522.

For the horizontal cephalic index:

2 Mossi have 65
4 Mossi have 68
4 Mossi have 69
2 Mossi have 70
3 Mossi have 71
13 Mossi have 72
17 Mossi have 73
5 Mossi have 74
15 Mossi have 75
11 Mossi have 76
7 Mossi have 77
8 Mossi have 78
6 Mossi have 79
1 Mossi has 80
2 Mossi have 81 (3)

14| /14/ 3. Page 524. If Dr. Ruelle had taken care to measure Mossi women, it is probable that the cephalic index would have been larger, since we know, for instance, that Lobi women have an average horizontal cephalic index of 75.89, while the men have only 74.36; Birifon women have 77.35, while the men have only 74.58; and finally, Dagari women have 72.32, while the men have only 72.09. This means that the women have a shorter skull than the men, yet it is no broader, that is to say, they have a smaller cerebral capacity. This also undoubtedly means that these women's ancestors probably belonged, more or less, to the pygmy or Negrito race whose unequivocal traces are still found on the Ivory Coast, a racial group with skulls shorter than those of the tall Negroes without being commensurately broader, quite the contrary.

We see, thus, that 12 Mossi out of 100 are ultradolichocephalic or hyperdolichocephalic, 53 are properly called dolichocephalic, 32 subdolichocephalic, and 3 are subbrachycephalic.

The average is 74.65, that is, clearly dolichocephalic. The extremes of the indices are: maximum, 81.76; minimum, 65.62. The spread is 16.14.

14| 17| The peoples who most resemble the Mossi on Dr. Ruelle's table are:

the Ouangarbé or Yarsé	74.95	(average)
the Samo	74.90	"
the Nounouma	74.40	"
the Birifon	74.58	"
the Lobi	74.36	"

14| The nasal index for 100 Mossi is:

1 where the nasal index figures between 80 and 84.9

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2	where the nasal index figures	between	85 and 89.9
9	-	between	90 and 94.9
14	-	between	95 and 99.9
29	-	between	100 and 104.9
17	-	between	105 and 109.9
11	-	between	110 and 114.9
15	-	between	115 and 119.9
2	-	above	120

The average is 104.60. Considered in detail, we find one mesorrhine (up to 85), 23 platyrrhine (from 85 to 100) and 74 hyperplatyrrhine (from 100 to 120) (1).

1. Page 538.

171 The Mossi is thus decidedly platyrrhine and even hyperplatyrrhine, although less so than the Bambara.

As far as height is concerned, the average of 94 Mossi men is 1.71 /15/ (exactly 1.712). But this average would be quite a bit lowered if Dr. Ruelle could have measured women (1).

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1. Lobi women measure on the average 1.66, while the men measure 1.75; Birifon women measure 1.62, while the men measure 1.75; Dagari women are 1.59, while the men are 1.72 (p. 550).

141 144 In conclusion, Dr. Ruelle's study tells us that the Mossi are dolichocephalic, platyrrhine, and tall. These are characteristics usually attributed to the Black race in general (tall Negroes, not Negritos). These traits do not differentiate the Mossi to any extent from the peoples surrounding them. In order to reach anthropological conclusions about the origin of the Mossi, more far-reaching somatic studies than those now in existence will need to be made on the Mossi themselves and on the hundreds of Negro tribes living in the Sudan, between Abyssinia and the Atlantic and between the Sahara and the Gulf of Guinea.